

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,  
What is the percentage of Americans believing from lack of INFORMATION that Iraq/Saddam Hussein were also responsible for 9/11? (besides bin Laden/al Quada/Taliban of Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabian citizens-15 of the Islam fundamentalists! who attacked America.)

If Americans no longer read newspapers, getting most of their news from television, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE CERTAIN there is access to pure information, education and enlightenment. When did you last feel ANY responsibility for an enlightened American public FIRST!, before profit?

As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

For myself, I go to my computer for the information my newspapers do not provide me. I also go from C-Span to BBC to CBC whenever possible, and MSNBC, because CNN has become less and less pure news which is all i want from my tv: INFORMATION.

Sincerely,  
Joan Fassett.

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